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Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Letter dated 18 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter from His Excellency Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba, with regard to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funds frozen by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the United States Department of the Treasury (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 41.

(*Signed*) Pedro **Nuñez Mosquera**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 18 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Letter dated 5 February 2011 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you of a regrettable fact which further adds to the already long list of examples of the extraterritorial application of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba, this time, through the United Nations. Through the General Assembly, the United Nations has systematically, on 19 occasions, requested the cessation of this unilateral policy, which is in violation of international law.

In January, the Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Havana stated that the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the United States Department of the Treasury had frozen 3 million dollars in funds intended to support implementation in Cuba of three projects of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

This illegal action significantly hampers the international cooperation provided by the United Nations system through its agencies, funds and programmes. It is all the more grave given that it affects funds intended to combat and prevent pandemics in Cuba. The Government of Cuba and the international community are deploying every possible effort to eradicate these pandemics.

This unilateral measure will likewise affect implementation of social projects focusing for vulnerable groups in Cuba and whether such projects can continue. The measure will also affect the universal nature of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

As you know, the embargo policy against Cuba imposed by the Government of the United States of America for over 50 years is the primary obstacle to our people's development and well-being. Public health, a priority sector in which Cuba is recognized as a model, due both to the excellent services provided to its own people and its international cooperation programmes, is one of the sectors most seriously affected by this mean-spirited policy. The policy aims to undermine the quality of service provided to the Cuban population and to obstruct the provision of medical assistance in over 100 countries by 40,000 Cuban health workers.

I should be grateful if you would consider this matter and ensure the prompt release of the frozen UNDP funds so that the projects in Cuba can move forward.

(*Signed*) Bruno **Rodriguez Parrilla**